

# SINKING OF THE LACONIA IS "THE OVERT ACT" WHICH PRES. WILSON REFERRED TO

Two American Women Were Victims of the German Attack, Having Died of Exposure—The Liner Was Torpedoed Without Warning According to All the Official Reports

## U. S. GOVERNMENT WILL ARM MERCHANT SHIPS

The Latest German Outrage Is Expected to Hasten the Action of Congress in Granting Authority to Protect Americans and American Property—Situation Was Unchanged at Noon Today

Washington, D. C., Feb. 27.—The sinking of the Laconia with the loss of American lives is looked upon by the American government as a clear-cut violation of American rights, according to an authoritative expression of opinion obtained after a conference between President Wilson and Secretary of State Lansing. No further investigation is considered necessary.

The president and the state department officials look at the position that no further step will be taken until Congress has had an opportunity to act on the president's request. The view prevailed that the Laconia sinking should hasten the action by Congress.

The first step of the government is indicated to be to furnish American ships with guns and gunners for defensive purposes and insure them in the war risk bureau. On the basis of the official reports, the sinking of the Laconia is regarded as another Lusitania case in principle, even though fewer lives were lost.

### Modify Scope of President's Proposed Powers.

On an unofficial vote of the House foreign affairs committee today, it was agreed to strike from the administration bill to empower the president to take steps to meet the submarine menace the words "other instrumentalities" and to substitute the words "to use the naval forces of the United States including the naval militia."

The Senate foreign relations commission, which is also considering the bill likewise showed a disposition to modify the breadth of the "other instrumentalities" phrase. The Republican senators voted solidly against it and got some support, it was said, from Senators Stone, Hitchcock and O'Gorman, Democrats.

## BILL TO AUTHORIZE PRESIDENT TO ARM MERCHANT SHIPS

Was Introduced in the House By Chairman Flood of the Foreign Affairs Committee—Provides For Bond Issue of \$100,000,000.

Washington, D. C., Feb. 27.—After conferences with Democratic and Republican leaders, Chairman Flood of the House foreign affairs committee introduced late yesterday a bill authorizing the president to arm merchant ships and use "such other instrumentalities as necessary to protect them on the high seas, and providing for a special bond issue of \$100,000,000."

The text of the Flood bill follows: "Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, that the president of the United States be and is hereby authorized and empowered to supply merchant ships, the property of citizens of the United States and bearing American registry, with defensive arms should it in his judgment become necessary for him to do so, and also with the necessary ammunition and means of making use of them in defense against unlawful attack, and that he be and is hereby authorized and empowered to employ such other instrumentalities and methods as may in his judgment and discretion seem necessary and adequate to protect such ships and the citizens of the United States in their lawful and peaceful pursuits on the high seas.

## STEAMSHIP FINLAND NEARING PORT WITH 166 PASSENGERS

She Is the Last of American Line Ships to Leave the Ocean—She Will Probably Dock Tomorrow Morning.

New York, Feb. 27.—The steamship Finland of the American line, which sailed from Liverpool the 17th with 166 passengers, including many Americans, reported by wireless to-day that she would probably dock about 8 o'clock to-morrow morning. With the arrival of the Finland, the entire American line fleet will be tied up in New York for the first time since the Spanish war.

## 11-YEAR-OLD BOY SUICIDE.

Stepfather Tried in Vain to Save Drowning Lad.

Machias, Me., Feb. 27.—Lloyd Smith, an 11-year-old high school pupil, jumped into the Machias river yesterday after being questioned by his stepfather, W. H. Hanson, regarding some spending money, and was drowned. Hanson leaped after the lad and succeeded in reaching him, notwithstanding the cold swift current. In the heavy ice flows the boy was torn from his stepfather's grasp. Hanson was rescued in an exhausted condition by two men in a rowboat. The boy's body was not recovered.

## BRITISH ARE PUSHING AFTER GERMANS ON SOMME FRONT

They Are Now Only Three Miles from the Important Stronghold of Bapaume, and Germans Are Still Retreating.

Military operations of high importance are in progress on the Somme front, where the British continue to push forward after the retreating Germans. General Haig's outpost, at last accounts, were but three miles from the German stronghold of Bapaume, and there is as yet no indication how far the Germans intend to retreat before taking up a new line of defense elsewhere.

Except in the Tigris region, where the British are pursuing the Turks westward after capturing Ku-Ei-Amara, military activities do not appear to have been of major importance.

### GAIN ON 11-MILE FRONT.

And British Advance Is to a Depth of Two Miles.

London, Feb. 27.—The British advance along the Ancre river has attained a depth of two miles and extends along a front of about 11 miles according to the official report from British headquarters last night.

The text reads: "The movements referred to in the communications Saturday and Sunday were maintained during the day on both banks of the Ancre. Our advance extends over a front of about 11 miles from east of Gueudecourt to south of Gommecourt and has attained a depth of two miles.

"In addition to the village of Serre reported yesterday we now occupy the strong point known as Butte de Warlencourt, Pys and Miraumont. We have reached the outskirts of Le Barque, Ires and Puisieux-Au-Mont.

"A hostile attack made early this morning on one of our posts south of the Somme was driven off with loss.

"We carried out a successful raid this morning north of Arras and captured 24 prisoners. We also entered the enemy's trenches during the night west of Monchy-Aux-Bois and west of Lens and brought back a few prisoners. The hostile artillery was more active than usual during the day south of the Somme and also south of Ypres.

"In the course of the air fighting yesterday one German airplane was destroyed and another was driven down damaged."

## STEAMERS ARIES AND SEA GULL SUNK

Lloyds Announces That the Crews of Both Vessels Have Been Landed.

London, Feb. 27.—The British steamer Aries of 2,372 tons has been sunk by a German submarine, Lloyds announces. The crew were landed. The sinking of the British steamer Sea Gull of 144 tons was also announced. The crew was landed.

### HUGE WAR LOAN.

Great Britain Secured \$5,000,000,000 According to Bonar Law.

London, Feb. 27.—There was a scene of great enthusiasm in the House of Commons yesterday when Andrew Bonar Law, chancellor of the exchequer, announced the result of Great Britain's third war loan, which is by far the greatest voluntary contribution by the people of any belligerent nation. More than £1,000,000,000 of new money, with more than 5,000,000 subscribers, are the stupendous figures which the chancellor of the exchequer confessed he would have thought it impossible to raise only a few days ago.

The loan has resulted in a striking victory for the government over the professional financiers, since bankers had advised the treasury department that it could not be floated at less than six per cent. Mr. Law at the time declared that he preferred to risk failure in an attempt at a five per cent loan rather than to place six per cent as the standard of the nation's credit. The chancellor's highest expectations had been for £800,000,000 of new money.

The total of "new money" includes the conversion of nearly £131,000,000 short term treasury bills, and there is a difference of opinion whether they should be regarded as such, some financiers talking the negative ground that they represent money which the government already has spent.

## WOUNDED SOLDIERS IN TRAIN WRECK

Several Scores Were Killed Or Further Disabled When Being Sent Back to Russia from Germany.

London, Feb. 27.—A train carrying 228 wounded Russian soldiers on their way home from Germany through Sweden was derailed late last night between Gefle and Soderham, says an Exchange dispatch from Stockholm.

## TWO AMERICANS AMONG VICTIMS

Mrs. Mary Hoy and Daughter, Elizabeth, of Chicago, Lost on the Laconia

## DIED OF EXPOSURE, BURIED AT SEA

Total Casualties on the Torpedoed Ship Were Thirteen

London, Feb. 27.—A telegram from Consul Frost at Queenstown to the American embassy gave the total landed from the Laconia as 281 out of 294 persons aboard. Of the thirteen lost five were drowned and eight died of exposure and were buried at sea. Six are in hospitals.

As far as the embassy knows, Mrs. Mary Hoy and daughter were the only American passengers lost. They died of exposure and were buried at sea.

A Central News dispatch from Queenstown says that eight American negroes, members of the crew, also died of exposure.

Consul Frost in a report to the American embassy says the submarine was not seen until after the second torpedo was discharged. Then she came alongside one boat and told the occupants that a British admiralty patrol had caught the wireless flash and was coming to the scene. The submarine made no effort to aid.

### 26 AMERICANS ABOARD.

Six of Them Were Cabin Passengers and Remainder Crew.

New York, Feb. 27.—Twenty-six Americans, six of whom were cabin passengers and 20 paid members of the crew, were on board the Cunard liner Laconia from New York, February 13 for Liverpool with 75 passengers and a crew of 216, when the vessel was sunk by a German submarine Sunday night. One casualty, as yet unidentified was officially reported by the Liverpool office of the line to officials here.

The names of the American passengers and their address as given by the line here and confirmed in part by relatives in the United States, are as follows:

Floyd P. Gibbons of the Chicago Tribune; Mrs. F. E. Harris, wife of Lieut. Col. Frank E. Harris, U. S. coast artillery corps, stationed at Fort DuPont, near Philadelphia; Arthur T. Kirby Bainbridge, New York; Mrs. Mary E. Hoy, Chicago; Rev. James Wareing, registered from New York, but said to be from Norfolk, Va.; Miss Elizabeth Hoy, Chicago.

The Americans among the crew were signed here to take the place of others whose terms of service had expired or who had failed to appear when the ship was ready to sail. The men were recruited mostly from shipping offices and gave New York and Brooklyn as their places of residence. They were stokers, coal trimmers, wipers and seamen.

While details of the cargo of the Laconia are withheld under a recent ruling of the customs officials, it was learned at the office of the company that the following items were among the principal commodities carried: 40,000 bushels of wheat, 2,802 bales of cotton, 1,408 boxes of fresh fruit, 3,000 tons of shell casings and other war supplies, and 9,000 tons of provisions.

It was positively stated by officials of the line that there were no explosives on board.

In addition to cargo and passengers the Laconia carried 5,000 bags of United States and Canadian mail, 1,300 sacks of wheat, and 1,300 sacks of flour. The American liner St. Louis, the Laconia and the same date the Holland-American liner Ryndam returned to port after being turned back from her voyage to Rotterdam by the submarine menace, had on board nine of the Ryndam passengers.

The Laconia when she left here was armed with one defense gun, mounted aft. The report that the ship was torpedoed at night and without warning indicates that no opportunity was given to make use of the defense gun, according to officials of the line.

### HOYS HAD BEEN ON VISIT.

Were Returning to England After Stay at Their Former Home.

Chicago, Feb. 27.—Mrs. Mary E. Hoy, who, with her daughter, Miss Elizabeth, was reported to have been lost when the steamer Laconia was torpedoed, is the wife of Dr. Albert S. Hoy, Dr. Hoy and his son, Austin, are in London, where the son is a representative of an American manufacturing company.

Mrs. Hoy and her daughter came to the United States for a visit last December. Dr. Hoy and his family lived in Chicago for many years. Friends of the Hoy family in Chicago said that although the Hoys had been in England for some time they still retained their American citizenship.

## 19 MANGLED AS THEY SLEPT

When Freight Crashed into Sleeping-Car at Mount Union Station, Pa.

## FEW BODIES HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED

The Passenger Train Was Standing at Station When Struck

Altoona, Pa., Feb. 27.—Nineteen passengers and a negro porter were killed in a rear-end collision between an express train and a freight on the Pennsylvania railroad at Mount Union station, 43 miles east of here, early this morning. All the killed were in the rear sleeping car of the passenger train, which was standing at the station when the freight train crashed into it, and the bodies were so badly mangled that hours after the accident only a few had been identified.

## PERRY AUTO CO. BUYS THE MARTIN GARAGE

Building in Rear of Hotel Barre Was Constructed for That Company and Has Been Used by It for Five Years.

A deal completed Monday afternoon conveys to the Perry Auto Co. the garage building in the rear of Hotel Barre on Washington street and the purchasers taking formal possession of the property at once, although they have occupied the building since its erection five years ago. The selling agent was H. G. Woodruff, administrator of the estate of A. S. Martin, and the transaction completes negotiations that have been under way since Jan. 1. In the sale, the purchasers also acquire a small piece of land located between the rear of the First Baptist church and the livery stable of Cutler Bros. It is understood that the land will be utilized for parking purposes.

One dollar and other considerations are mentioned in connection with the selling price, although it is reported that the property brought a high figure. With the disposal of the garage and land plot, the Martin estate relinquishes the last of its holdings in the area southeast of the Aldrich public library. The garage was erected in the late winter of 1912 by Arthur S. Martin, and upon its completion it was leased to the Perry Auto Co., which has specialized in the distribution of Ford automobiles. Two years after completion, when the old City Hotel, which was destroyed by fire, stood on the site, the garage was sold to the Perry Auto Co., Inc., which began work in the same year on the new hotel. At that time there was talk of annexing the garage to the hotel structure, but nothing was done in that direction, and Mr. Martin continued to hold the property.

Three floors are occupied by the Perry Auto Co., and members of the concern stated yesterday that no immediate alterations or additions are contemplated. The garage is a substantial brick building, and during its tenancy the company has equipped it in a thorough-going fashion. There is an elevator communicating from the basement to the top story. The basement is used as a machine shop, and a restorator battery system has been installed, along with other machinery. The salesroom, a public gasoline pump and the office are located on the ground floor.

### MANY PRIESTS ASSIST.

In Forty-Hour Devotionals at St. Monica's Church.

Two former curates of St. Monica's church are among the nine visiting clergy who are participating in the forty-hour devotionals which were inaugurated for the benefit of the Catholics in Barre and vicinity this morning. The devotionals began at 8 o'clock with Rev. Fr. Joseph Turcot, pastor of St. Sylvester's church at Granville, as the celebrant at solemn mass. Rev. Fr. E. F. Cray, a former curate, was the deacon, and Rev. Fr. P. M. McKenna, pastor of St. Monica's church, was the sub-deacon. Many worshippers were present for the first service. This evening at 7 o'clock there will be devotionals, followed by confessions.

Rev. Fr. A. C. Griffin, also a former curate of the church in Barre, will be present for the services to-night and tomorrow and Thursday are: Rev. T. J. Leonard of Middlebury, Rev. P. J. Long of Montpelier, pastor of St. Augustine's in that city, Rev. Fr. Nolan, his assistant, Rev. Robert Devoy, pastor of St. Andrew's church in Waterbury, Rev. J. A. Lynch, pastor of St. John's church in Northfield, and Rev. M. S. O'Donnell, pastor of the Catholic church in Randolph.

In continuation of the forty hours, there will be celebration of the mass at St. Monica's to-morrow morning at 8:30 and 7 o'clock. Solemn high mass will be sung at 8 o'clock and throughout the day confessions will be heard. Evening devotionals at 7 o'clock will be followed by confessions.

Solemn high mass will be celebrated at 8 o'clock Thursday morning and the chanting of the litany of the saints will follow. Then will come the benediction of the blessed sacrament and the closing of the forty hours.

### TRANSPORT A-19 LOST.

British Vessel Reported by Berlin to Be Victim.

Berlin, Feb. 25, via wireless, Feb. 27.—The sinking of the British transport steamer A-19 was announced by the admiralty to-day.

## PROPOSE \$500,000 BOND ISSUE FOR VERMONT ROADS

Measure Introduced in Senate Would Have State Highway Commissioner Expend Money with Approval of Governor.

A proposal to bond the state of Vermont for \$500,000 was introduced in the Senate to-day by Senator McClellan of Windsor. The bill stipulates that the money shall be expended under the direction of the state highway commissioner or with the approval of the governor. The bonds are to be in denominations of \$100, \$500 and \$1,000 and shall be payable at such time not exceeding 20 years from the date of issue as the treasurer shall determine and shall be payable not less than \$35,000 annually commencing Jan. 1, 1923. The bonds are to bear interest at a rate not to exceed 3½ per cent annually. The bill was referred to the finance committee.

Other bills introduced in the Senate were: By Senator Wheeler of Chittenden, an act in amendment of and in addition to No. 18 of the acts of 1915 relating to the suppression of fungus diseases of plants. (Adds fungus diseases to other pests to be exterminated by commissioner of agriculture if found doing damage to vegetable growth.) To committee on agriculture.

By Senator Taylor of Windsor, an act relating to the election and appointment to office created by the general assembly of Vermont of students in agriculture, during the term of office for which he may be elected, be eligible to any office the election to which is vested in the general assembly, nor shall he be appointed to any civil office of profit which shall have been created during such term.)

Reported from committee on agriculture, an act relating to value of animals killed by order of the livestock commissioner. (Raises limit of appraisal of a single animal from \$75 to \$100 and limited cattle to \$75 from \$50 and the limit in the cases excepted from \$75 to \$100. The state shall pay the owner 75 per cent of such appraisal unless the animal on being slaughtered is free from tuberculosis or glanders, in which case the owner shall be paid the full amount of the appraisal.) Recommended to committee on motion of Senator Hancock.

By Senator Vilas of Chittenden, an act to provide for education at the University of Vermont for students in agriculture. (The auditor of accounts shall, between the first days of July and September of each year, draw an order in favor of the University of Vermont for \$100 for each student in such university, who has been a resident of the state for two years next preceding his enrollment in said university, who has completed the preceding college year of study in any course in agriculture in said university which leads to a degree after four years of study and who has received free tuition at said university for said year of study and tuition not paid, or to be paid, to said university otherwise than under this act.) To committee on agriculture.

A joint resolution was introduced in the House by Mr. Fenton of Rutland to-day, as follows: Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives, that a committee of two senators and three representatives be appointed by the president of the Senate and speaker of the House of Representatives, respectively, whose duty shall be to expedite legislation and to devise ways and means to effect as early an adjournment of the session as is consistent with thoroughness and efficiency. The resolution was adopted by the House. Another act toward hastening the end of the session was done by the House in adopting a resolution to limit the time for the introduction of bills to March 7.

There was a slight debate in the House on House bill 144, relating to the qualifications of voters in town meetings and allowing women to vote in town meetings. A divided committee report was made, the majority bringing in an adverse report. Mr. Fenton of Rutland moved that the bill be made a special order for Thursday, March 8, at 2:15 p. m. Mr. Moore of Ludlow objected to the postponement, and Mr. Metzger of Randolph thought the present a good time to go ahead with the bill. Mr. Coulton of Pittsford, however, declared it should be left to the women of Vermont. The motion for a special order prevailed by a vote of 101 to 100.

New Laws.

Gov. Graham has signed the following: An act to amend Section 5,893 of the public statutes, relating to houses of ill fame, including disorderly houses.

An act to amend Secs 7 and 9 of No. 159 of the acts of 1896 as amended, relating to the charter of the city of St. Albans, making the office of lister an appointive office.

An act to amend Sec. 5,472 of the public statutes, relating to misbranded foods requiring statement of net weight on packages.

An act to amend Sec. 5 of No. 179 of the acts of 1910, relating to the report of the license vote, the certification of license commissioners and the labeling of liquors.

An act to provide for clean, sanitary and healthful food establishments.

An act to establish a board of geographic names.

An act to amend Sec. 498 of the public statutes as amended by Sec. 1 of No. 32 of the acts of 1910 relating to exemption from taxation.

An act to amend Sec. 13 of No. 225 of the acts of 1912 as amended by Sec. 4 of No. 202 of the acts of 1915, relating to the value of animals killed by order of the livestock commissioner.

### ELOPED TO VERMONT.

Franklin, N. H., Girl and a Stock Company Actor.

Franklin, N. H., Feb. 27.—Miss Marion Blanche Pelletier, a pretty Franklin girl, and Charles Ervin Newhart of Philadelphia, an actor playing here last week with a stock company, announced their marriage late last night.

The bride's mother, Mrs. Eugene Pelletier of Spring street, refused to believe it. She and her daughter visited the police station and Officer Doherty telephoned Rev. Mr. Sissons, a Methodist clergyman at White River Junction, Vt., who said he married them Sunday.

The bride works in a local hosiery mill. The groom's company is in Littleton this week. The bride's friends thought her engaged to a Tilton barber.

## DEATH TAKES REP. W. H. BUNDY

Manchester Legislator Died Suddenly at Montpelier Boardinghouse

## MAKES FOURTH DEATH DURING THIS SESSION

Gloom Cast Over the State House—Bundy Is to Be Taken to Manchester

Death has again entered the ranks of the Vermont legislature, this time taking off Representative William H. Bundy of the town of Manchester. This makes the fourth death of members or attaches since the session opened in January. One other representative died before the assembly convened and two children and three wives of members have died during the same period.

Representative Bundy was born in Manchester 74 years ago, the date of his birth being Sept. 4, 1842. He was educated in the public schools and at Burr & Burton seminary in that place. He was postmaster under President Harrison and had held the office of school director, justice of the peace and lister. In politics he was a Republican. There are no near relatives, the nearest being a nephew residing in Troy, this state.

The news of the death of Representative Bundy cast a gloom over the legislature. The other deaths during the session were all in the Senate, being of Senators W. L. Kendall of Windsor county and H. E. Edly of Windham county and Chaplain M. W. Farman of Westfield. Some of the legislators had just returned from attending the funeral of Senator Eddy in Brattleboro Monday afternoon.

Representative Bundy was not feeling well this morning but he ate a hearty breakfast at the boarding-house of Arthur A. Emery of Elm street, where he lived, afterwards lying down. As he did not feel any better when the time for going to the State House came he stayed in the house. Early this afternoon his condition took a serious turn for the worse, and although Dr. Carey, a boarder in the Emery house, did all he could to save him, death ensued at about 1 o'clock. The body was later taken to the Barber undertaking rooms, and Senator J. H. Dimond, also a resident of Manchester, took charge of the arrangements. It is supposed that the body will be taken to Manchester to-morrow.

## CONTRADICTIONARY EVIDENCE ABOUT RETREAT FOOD

Former Patient, J. C. Jones of Rutland, Says Food Served Him Was Good—Attendant and an Employee Say Food Was Poor.

Contradictory evidence concerning the quality of the food served in the Brattleboro retreat was introduced to-day at the legislative investigation hearing being held at Montpelier. One patient declared that the food served him was good, while an attendant and an employee declared that the food was poor. During the progress of the case, Atty. Gibson for the retreat said he proposed to show by bills and receipts that the quality of the food was good.

Luna Churchill Jones of Sheffield, who was an attendant in 1912, testified to-day that the food was very poor and that there were not enough attendants to care for the patients. She declared that she saw women patients abused, their hair pulled and other acts done.

Joseph C. Jones, a Rutland attorney, was a voluntary patient in the institution in 1911, going there for treatment because of the drink habit. He said that he was dragged one day from the Marsh building to the main building at the retreat and that his neck was wrenched in such a way that he was lamed for some time afterwards. He also declared that Night Watchman Hill of being intoxicated. Mr. Jones said the food served him was good.

C. E. Jones of Rutland, who was an employee of the retreat, testified that the food was very poor and he added his statement to the effect that Night Watchman Hill was drunk.

Sergeant-at-Arms Dwinell went to Windsor to-day and will subpoena several witnesses in the investigation.

(Other testimony on Brattleboro retreat case on third page.)

## WASHINGTON COUNTY JURORS.

List Chosen for the March Term of Court.

The following is the list of jurors for the March term of Washington county court: Barre City, B. F. White, J. K. Anderson; Berlin, Orrin Kimball, H. N. Brown; Cabot, J. G. Pike, A. W. Stone; Calais, A. C. Wilber, S. F. George; Duxbury, Ernest Clifton, A. H. Graves; East Montpelier, E. H. Gould; Fayston, C. J. Nelson; Marshfield, E. A. Rosebrook, G. A. Hill; Middlesex, George Connor, Martin Pembroke; Montpelier, Louis N. Jones, George E. Fitzgerald; Moretown, P. J. Nerney, Elmer Hall; Northfield, Gilbert Andrews, George W. Dillingham; Plainfield, Nat. B. Page, Waldo Perkins; Roxbury, G. Webster, James Tierney; Waitsfield, William A. Remel, William A. Kelsey; Warren, Lee W. Adrich, Earl Hanks; Waterbury, S. R. Kennedy, E. S. Whitcomb; Woodbury, E. E. Wheeler, Grant Fair; Worcester, H. L. Abbott, E. E. Grey.

## TWO CHILDREN BURNED.

Were Left by Their Mother Who Went A-Visting.

Eastport, Me., Feb. 27.—Two little children were burned to death yesterday afternoon in a small shack in the sardine workers' settlement, at the north end of the city.